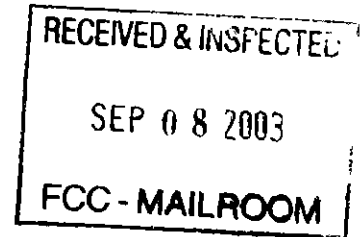


Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554



REC'D & INSPECTED  
SEP 18 2003  
FCC-GBG MAILROOM

In the Matter of )  
)  
)  
)  
)  
Changes in Part 97 )  
With regard to Amateur )  
Radio Services Rules, )  
Element 1 )

RM \_\_\_\_\_)

To: The Commission

**Petition by Ronald D. Lowrance, Amateur Radio Operator, K4SX**

Comes before the Commission to respectfully request the Commission modify Part 97 of Amateur Radio Service Rules, Element 1, to enhance the requirement for knowledge and proficiency of Morse code as a key component of Amateur licensing.

**Introduction**

I come to you today in support of retaining Morse Code (CW) proficiency as a key component of US Amateur Radio licensing.

The many debates and arguments over the recent years have once again come before the Amateur Radio community at large with the recent international agreement currently in place. In an effort to come to the point quickly without reiterating the many views and comments over the past years, proficiency in Morse Code (CW) for Amateurs is a Key component of communication for our community service responsibilities under and within Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As many of us know and realize during difficult communication conditions, especially when voice and digital communication fail, Morse code will be key as a back-up communication mode for brief secure-coded and non-secure messages. (The speed of copy is not nearly as important as the ability to copy at a speed necessary to pass traffic. This is typically between 5 and 10 words per minute). The Amateur's ability to transmit messages during difficult atmospheric and man-made conditions will be critical when other operators not capable of transmitting and copying CW when voice and digital modes fail.

In closing, I would like to make two additional points. The first is leadership. The world-at-large looks to the United States to lead. Because communication during emergencies is extremely critical and Morse code is the most reliable mode of

019  
WTB 03-341

communication, Morse code should be retained as a proficiency and licensing requirement in Amateur Radio. The second is historic. The Amateur Radio community has the unique opportunity again to write into history, just as our predecessors did during WWI and WWII, and once again establish Amateur Radio as a Key component of our national security system. The Amateur Radio operator's experience, technical ability, and specific skills and proficiency in Morse code place us uniquely into that position with a community service interlock directly to The Department of HomeLand Security.

**Recommended action to be by the Commission**

- 1.) Retain the 5 words per minute Morse code requirement for General Class Amateur Radio licensing.
- 2.) No requirement for Morse code for Technician Class Amateur Radio Licensing.
- 3.) Change the Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra Class licensing from 5 words per minute to 13 words per minute.

Respectfully,



Ronald D. Lowrance  
Amateur Radio Operator, K4SX  
6340 Black Oak Drive  
Cumming, Georgia 30040

K4SX @ oakcreek.net

September 3, 2003

REC'D & INSPECTED

SEP 18 2003

FCC-GBG MAILROOM